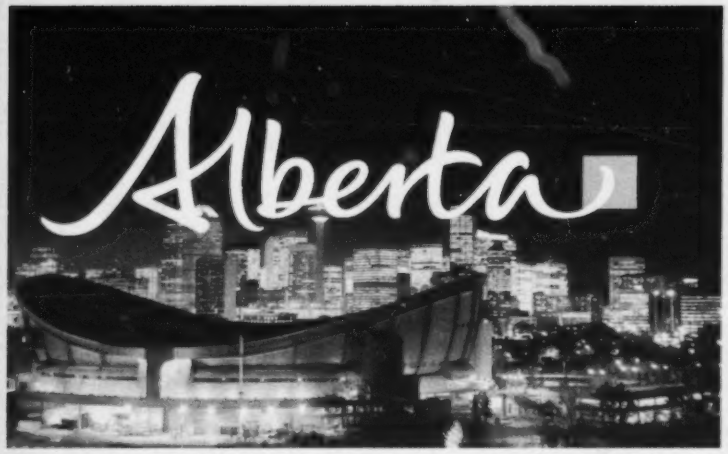

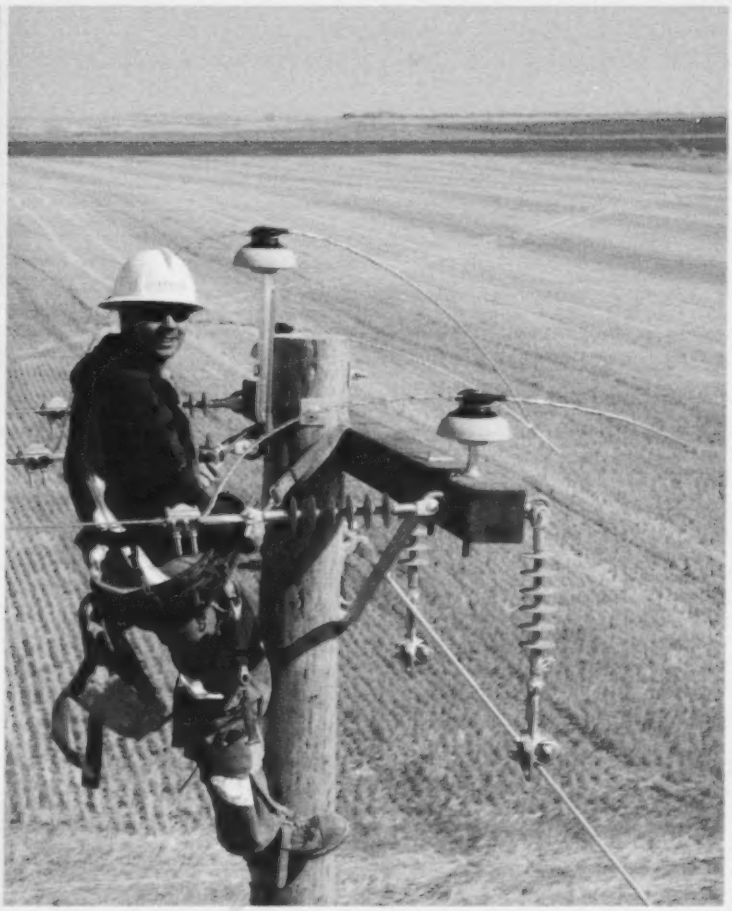

INDUSTRY PROFILES

Utilities Industry

July 2010

Government of Alberta
Employment and Immigration

Overview:

The Utilities industry[1] in Alberta includes:

- electric power generation, transmission and distribution;
- natural gas distribution; and
- water, sewer and irrigation systems.

Section A: Business Environment
1. 2009 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates
2. Industry Growth
3. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry
Section B: Human Resources Profile
1. Occupational Information
2. Demographics: Age and Gender
3. Wages
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[1] North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) major group 22

Section A: Business Environment

1. 2009 Employment and Unemployment Numbers and Rates:

	Alberta	Utilities Industry
Number of employed	1,988,100	20,400
Percent employed in the industry		1.0%
Number of unemployed	139,700	N/A
Unemployment rate	6.6%	N/A

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada
Note: N/A is reported in instances of insufficient sample size.

For more information on employment numbers or for a historical comparison, please go to the Labour Force Statistics[2] or Statistics Canada[3] websites.

2. Industry Growth:

- Employment in the Utilities industry grew by 16.6% in 2009 alone, far exceeding the projected annual growth rate of 2.0%.
- Employment is expected to exceed the projected level of 19,300 by 2013.

For more information, see the Alberta Modified Canadian Occupational Projection System (COPS) Outlook 2009 – 2013, Industry Employment Outlook[4] online and the Alberta Learning Information Service (ALIS)[5] website's industry descriptions.

[2] See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/67.html
[3] See http://www.statcan.gc.ca
[4] See http://www.employment.alberta.ca/documents/LMI/LMI-LMF_2009-13_cops.pdf
[5] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

Trends and Outlook

According to Statistics Canada's National Economic Accounts, the Utilities industry accounted for 2.1% of Alberta's Gross Domestic Product in 2009, down slightly from 2.4% in 1999. The industry's share of Alberta's total employment increased from 0.6% in 1999 to 1.0% in 2009.

Employment in 2009 was 16.6% higher than its level in 2008. Over the last ten years, employment increased from 9,700 people in 1999 to 20,400 people in 2009.

The *Alberta Occupational Demand Outlook 2009-2013* projects labour demand growth in most occupations in the industry.

3. Size of Businesses in Alberta and the Industry:

Establishment Size	Alberta Businesses		Utilities Businesses	
	Number of Employees	%*	Number of Employees	%*
Less than 20 employees	561,300	34.3%	3,600	17.7%
20 to 99 employees	582,500	35.6%	5,800	28.6%
100 to 500 employees	298,700	18.3%	6,600	32.5%
Over 500 employees	194,000	11.9%	4,300	21.2%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada

* Percentages may not add up to 100 due to rounding.

Note: Statistics Canada's survey methodology for determining establishment size differs from the one it uses in the Labour Force Survey to determine total employment. As a result, the total number of employees by establishment size will not be the same as total employment in the industry, except by coincidence.

Section B: Human Resources Profile

1. Occupational Information:

Some examples of occupations that can be found in the Utilities industry include:

- gas utility operator;
- utility clerk;
- water and wastewater treatment plant operator;
- power lineman; and
- power system electrician.

For a complete listing of all occupations related to this industry, as well as detailed information on education and skill requirements, visit the Alberta Occupational Profiles[6] website.

2. Demographics: Age and Gender:

According to the Labour Force Survey, the gender breakdown in the Utilities industry is as follows:

- women employed: 6,300 people, or 30.9%
- men employed: 14,100 people, or 69.1%

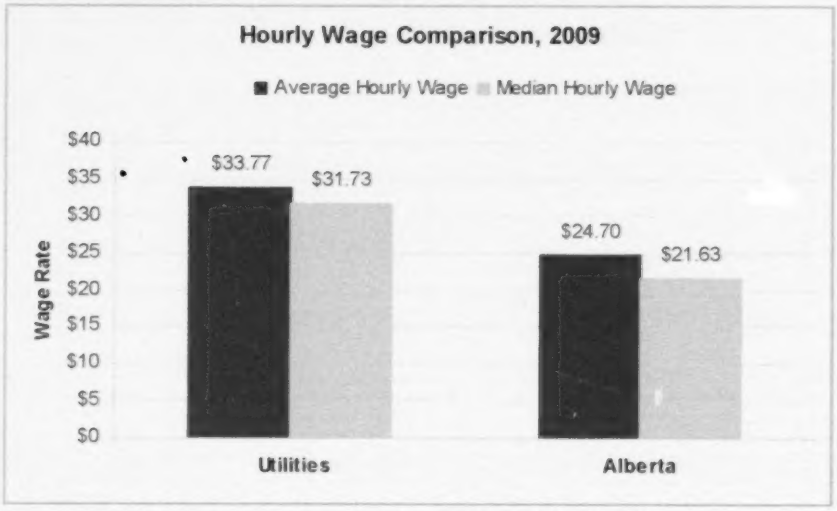
In Alberta, women accounted for 45.4% and men made up 54.6% of total employment.

Age Characteristics	Alberta Employees		Utilities Industry Employees	
	Number	%	Number	%
15-24 years	316,400	15.9%	1,900	9.3%
25-54 years	1,356,400	68.2%	16,000	78.4%
55 years and over	315,300	15.9%	2,500	12.3%

Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada

[6] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/occinfo

3. Wages:



Data Source: Labour Force Historical Review 2009, Statistics Canada
Note: The average hourly wage is obtained by dividing the sum of the wages of all the employees by the total number of employees. The median hourly wage is that wage below which half the employees earn and above which half the employees earn.

Wage and Salary Information for Selected Occupations

Occupation	Average Hourly Wage			Average Annual Salary
	Starting Average	Overall Average	Top Average	
Power system electrician	$ 18.25	$ 35.33	$ 43.99	$ 73,478
Utilities manager	$ 42.32	$ 48.29	$ 54.42	$ 100,606
Waterworks and gas maintenance worker	$ 28.01	$ 31.77	$ 34.69	$ 66,366

Data Source: 2009 Alberta Wage and Salary Survey

For more information on wages, refer to the WAGEinfo[7] webpage. For job descriptions, duties, required skills and education for specific occupations in the Utilities industry, visit the ALIS[8] website.

[7] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca/wageinfo
[8] See http://www.alis.alberta.ca

Section C: Additional Information

1. Links to Government and Selected Industry Associations:

- Alberta Energy Resources and Conservation Board
  (http://www.ercb.ca)
- Canadian Gas Association
  (http://www.caodc.ca)
- Canadian Wind Energy Association
  (http://www.canwea.ca)
- Canadian Electricity Association
  (http://www.canelect.ca)

2. Link to Government Library Database:

http://www.servicelink.gov.ab.ca/libraries/workplace